

IN THE CLAIMS

1. (amended) A process for manufacturing components made of fiber-reinforced thermoplastic materials, where a blank (7) formed of [a short, long, and/or endless] fiber (6) and a thermoplastic material is first pre-finished, and [this] said blank (7) is brought into [the] a final form of [the] a component in a negative mold, under pressure, in a hot-forming process, characterized in that the blank (7) is [first] heated to a forming temperature in a heating stage, and then axially pressed into the negative mold (13), [by means of extrusion] thus giving the blank its shape.

2. (amended) A process for manufacturing components which are under [tensile, bending, and/or torsion] stress, made of fiber-reinforced thermoplastic materials, where a blank (7) formed with a fiber proportion of more than 50 volume-% and with at least predominant use of endless fibers and [a] said fiber-reinforced thermoplastic material is first pre-finished, and [this] said blank is brought into [the] a final form of [the] a component in a negative mold, under pressure, in a hot-forming process, characterized in that the blank (7) is [first] heated to a forming temperature in a heating stage, and then axially pressed into the negative mold (13) [by means of extrusion] thus giving the blank its shape.

3. (twice amended) The process according to claim 1, characterized in that the blank (7) is further pre-finished as rod material and is cut to [the] a plurality of lengths required for [the] a final component before the hot-forming process.

4. (amended) The process according to claim 1 [to 2], characterized in that [endless] the fibers (6) that are endless have [with] a length that corresponds at least to [the] a length of the blank for [the] a final component are used.

5. (amended) The process according to claim 1, characterized in that said [a] blank (7) composed of layers with different fiber orientation in [its] a lengthwise direction is formed.

In claim 6, line 1, please insert --The-- before "process."

In claim 6, line 2, please delete "a" and insert --the--therefor.

In claim 7, line 1, please insert --The-- before "process."

In claim 7, line 3, please delete "the" and insert --a-- therefor.

8. (amended) The process according to claim 1, characterized in that the blank (7) is heated to a forming temperature of 350-450°C, [for example, in a heating stage,] and then axially pressed into the negative mold (13), where cooling below the glass transition temperature of the thermoplastic material[, e.g. 143°C,] takes place during a post-pressure phase.

In claim 9, line 1, please insert --The-- before "process."

In claim 10, line 1, please insert --the-- before "process."

In claim 10, line 3, please delete "a" and insert --The-- therefor.

In claim 11, line 1, please insert --The-- before "process."

In claim 11, line 3, please delete "the" and insert --an-- therefor.

In claim 12, line 1, please insert "The" before "process."

In claim 12, line 3, please delete "have" and insert --has-- therefor.

In claim 13, line 1, please insert --The-- before "process."

14. (amended) The process according to Claim 1, characterized in that the fibers are surrounded by [matrix] said thermoplastic material, covering [the] a surface of the blank (7) during said giving the blank its final shape [extrusion].

15. (amended) The process according to Claim 1 characterized in that [the] a pressing temperature and [the] a pressing speed are adjusted as a variable to change [the] position and [the] alignment of the fibers in [the] a finished component.

In claim 16, line 1, please insert --The-- before "process."

REMARKS

Claims 1-52 are pending in this application. Claims 1-16 are pending in the present application. The Examiner has declared this oath or declaration as defective. Claims 1-16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Claims 1, 3-6, 11-12, 14 and 16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Devanathan (U.S. Patent No. 4,978,360). Claims 2, 7-10 and 15 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over Devanathan.